

Dear ECMN Friends,

I write to you in my role as ECMN Security Advisor.

We know that recent news about increased immigration enforcement activity has caused fear, uncertainty, and deep concern for many in our community. Today's shooting of an unarmed individual by ICE agents is tragic and disheartening, and it further escalates an already tense and increasingly dangerous situation in our communities. I want to say this clearly and gently: **you are not alone** in your grief, fear, or outrage.

As people of faith, we are grounded in compassion, dignity, and care for one another—especially for those who are feeling vulnerable or afraid right now. Fear can spread quickly in moments like these, and we encourage one another to pause, breathe, and stay connected rather than isolated. Our concern for our immigrant neighbors is deeply rooted in love; at the same time, heightened anxiety can unintentionally increase confusion and risk for everyone. Remaining calm, prepared, and grounded helps keep people safer and allows us to stay focused on our chief work: being the love of Christ to all we encounter.

We ask our faith communities to:

- **Stay supportive and calm**, especially in conversations that feel heavy or emotional
- **Check in on one another**, particularly families, neighbors, and those most directly affected, as well as the clergy and lay leaders serving our multicultural congregations.
- **Rely on trusted information**, not rumors or social media speculation
- **Revisit the *Current Recommendations for Safety and Security Preparedness for ECMN Congregations***, which have not changed in light of this week's events
- **Be present and non-anxious**, allowing congregational leaders charged with keeping people and property safe the space and support to do so
- **Know the resources available** to serve our immigrant members and neighbors
- **Stay safe** by avoiding interaction with local law enforcement and ICE agents

It is also important to know that everyone has rights. Regardless of immigration status, individuals have the right to remain silent, the right to ask for a warrant, and the right to seek legal counsel. We will continue to share reliable resources and learning opportunities so that we can remain informed rather than overwhelmed.

Our calling as followers of Jesus is to love our neighbors, protect human dignity, and walk together through difficult times. We remain committed to creating spaces of welcome, prayer, and mutual care. If you are feeling afraid or in need of support, please reach out—pastoral leaders and trusted community members are here to listen and help connect you with resources.

Let us continue to move forward together with courage, compassion, and hope.

With care and solidarity,

The Rev. Tim Kingsley, St. Mark's Provost and ECMN Security Advisor

